

DIA review completed.

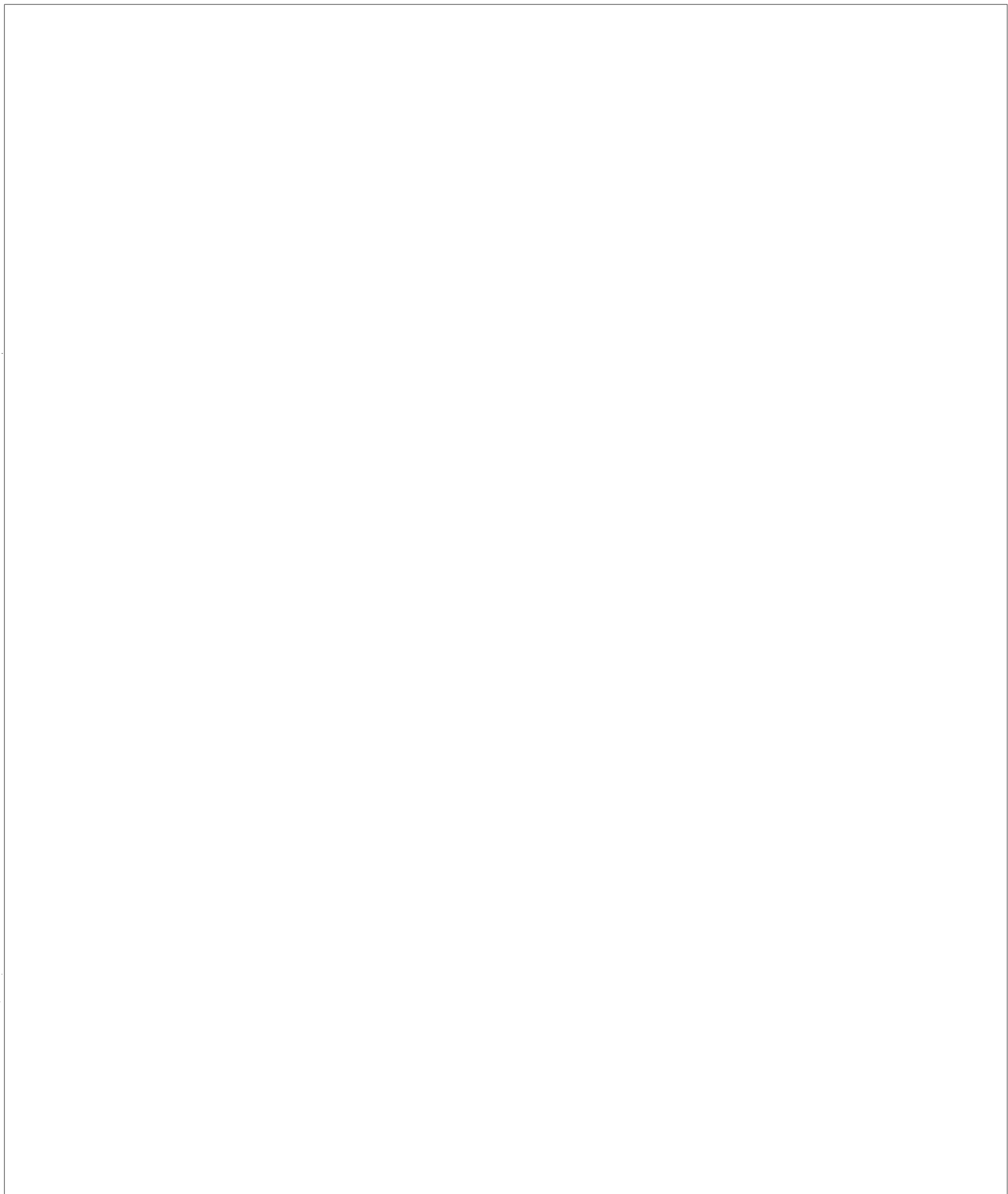
NSC BRIEFING

DOCUMENT NO. 21
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. X
IT DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 700
DATE 1-3-80 REVIEWER:
CHINESE AID TO THE VIET-MINH

25 March 1954

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- IV. Viet Minh effort sustained by small Chinese aid because major offensives limited to two or three per year.
- A. China aid insufficient to permit continuous combat, is stockpiled for use during major campaigns.
 - B. Preparing for Dien Bien Phu, Viet Minh stockpiled in western Tonkin for over two months, using hordes of coolies.
- V. Without China supply, Viet Minh army would become weak guerrilla forces without potential for division warfare.
- A. Local industry capacity sufficient only to produce limited numbers of small arms, mines, ammunition.
 - B. Viet Minh arsenals highly dependent on China supply for raw materials even for this production.
- VI. Almost all China supplies are used in northern Indochina.
- A. Even here, most of materiel goes to regular army; regionals poorly supplied.

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B. In the south, Viet Minh dependent largely on own resources; consequently weak.

C. Regional forces rely largely on captured French materiel.

VII. This captured French equipment is very important supplement to Chinese aid.

A. Army attaché estimated in February weekly French Union small arms losses throughout Indochina at over 1,000.

B. Viet Minh also captured large numbers automatic weapons and a few artillery pieces.

VIII. In last few months, Viet Minh truck park reportedly increased from 800 to perhaps 1,500.

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A. This could indicate increasing China aid.

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CHINESE AID TO VIET MINH

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IV. Small Chinese aid supports two or three yearly offensives.

A. Insufficient to permit continuous heavy combat.

B. For Dien Bien Phu, enemy stockpiled for over two months.

V. Without China supply, Viet Minh army would be weak guerrilla force.

A. Local industry small.

B. Arsenals use materiel from China.

VI. China aid used mainly in north.

A. Regular army gets bulk.

B. In south, depend on own resources.

C. Regionals largely equipped

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VII. Captured supplies important supplement
to China aid.

A. Weekly small arms losses -- 1,000.

B. Also automatic weapons,
occasionally artillery pieces.

VIII. Enemy trucks up from 800 to perhaps
1,500.

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